

# The New York Times

## HAVENS; HOUSES ON DEAD-END STREETS: SOLITUDE AT THE END OF THE ROAD

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**WHO** -- Doug Wolf, 58, an investment banker, and his wife, Jane, 46, manager of the Wolf Family Vineyards, with sons Alex, 15; Justin, 13; and Adam, 10

**WHAT** -- 5-bedroom house on a 30-acre estate and vineyard

**WHERE** -- St. Helena, Calif.

**Jane:** We had been spending weekends for the last 15 years up in Napa Valley. One thing led to another, and we decided we would acquire a property and even have a couple of acres of grapes on it. The criteria were to be on a flat road, given that we live on a very San Francisco street, and if we could ever find something on a dead end, that would be ideal.

**Doug:** The property had just about every feature we thought we might want. It was Jane's 40th birthday coming up, so it was acquired in honor of her birthday, as a surprise.

**Jane:** It's an 1885 Victorian. We have now been there for seven or eight years. We have three sons and two dogs, and we can relax not only on our own property but on the dead-end road: there's very little traffic. And now we've gone from bikes into little motorcycles, so it's even more important that there are no cars.

**Doug:** The properties that are adjacent to us are vineyard properties, so except for an occasional truck, there really isn't a great deal of traffic. We abut a total wilderness area. Various things come with it, not all good. We've had some major run-ins with wild boar, which turned our sports field into a mud wallow, and there is an occasional rattlesnake.

**Jane:** We had cows in the vineyard -- our neighbors cows came down the hill.

**Doug:** There are even rumors of mountain lions.

**Jane:** None of which we have in San Francisco.

*Interview by Seth Kugel*